



2016 School Study Committee

**Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2016
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Harvey Education Center, Board Room

Present: Jessica Curtis, Lance Delbridge, Jon Droscha, Liz Evans, Josh Galloway, Matt Hall, Amy McVaugh, Kerry Minshall, Christopher Mumby, Mitch Perrault, Mike Prelesnik, Sandy Smalley, Mike Thompson, Sally Trout, Chris Waltz, Russ Whipple, Chris Wright, Tim Ayers, Erik Cargill, Susie Disselkoen, Steve Duane, Shelly Fanson, Laura Fenger, Emily Kress

Absent: Ted Berryhill, Brian Bushey, Patrick Meyers, Jerry Schaffer, Joe Strach, Tim Williams

Also present: Superintendent Ron Drzewicki, Mike Kenney, Steve Merriman and Ted Moore

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

Public Comment

After the last meeting the chair received a letter via a committee member. The letter was from a member of the public and the letter had comments regarding the committee's work. In the future, we would like to have public comments be brought up by a committee member during the meeting or the public provide their questions during public comment time. This will help us include this as public comment for meeting minutes.

Request/Clarification Forms

The chair has addressed most of the request forms and is working to address any outstanding items as soon as possible. The committee was encouraged during this time to ask any questions

about outstanding items or any items already addressed. No additional comments/questions were provided.

Review Remaining Needs – small groups

Chairperson Waltz asked the committee to discuss needs in three areas: Parking/Traffic/Safety; STEM & Robotics; and Technology in small groups and report out to the whole committee.

Parking/Traffic/Safety

Group 1

- Address traffic/safety needs at elementary buildings first.
- Discussed ability to buy land around elementary buildings.
- Mason high school parking seems relatively ok except during after school events.
- Mason middle school safety for drop off and pick up needs to be fixed and the office needs to be moved.

Group 2

- Mason middle school – relocate the office for safety.
- North Aurelius parking is bad.
- Discussions that speed limit was reduced to school zone in front of North Aurelius.
- North Aurelius entrance could be fixed for safety.
- Mason high sporting events and fine arts events parking is poor.
- Mason middle school traffic flow needs to be improved.

Group 3

- Discussions that there seems to be more parents and students driving and less bus riders but felt this was less of a concern because traffic/parking seemed to be an easier fix.
- Mason high school parking for after school events seems to be similar to what other districts face.
- Mason high school – it would be good to have a traffic light at Kipp Rd. and Barnes.

Group 4

- Separate bus and parent traffic at all elementary buildings.
- Mason high school – parent traffic is a concern.
- Mason middle school – seems to have good separation of bus and parent traffic.

Group 5

- Separate bus and parent traffic important for safety.
- More signs to show staff parking and bus traffic.
- More parking at all schools.

- More safety for classrooms inside the buildings.

STEM/Robotics

Group 1

- Provide more space for these programs.
- Upgrade industrial arts.
- Bring the elementary level up to program offerings as high school.

Group 2

- More space needed.
- Factor enrollment projections into future plans.

Group 3

- Insufficient space.
- Need more space to have effective learning.

Group 4

- Not enough space.
- Not enough done at the elementary buildings.

Group 5

- Good programs and need to look for additional private funding sources.

Technology

Group 1

- More technology needed and more clarity on what is needed.
- Look for multiple ways to fund technology.
- Students need better technology because a lot of standardized tests are done with computers.

Group 2

- Large range of options needed for technology.
- Possibly use sinking fund and other sources to fund technology needs.

Group 3

- Install strong infrastructure in all buildings and do not approach this as patch and fix.
- Virtual desktops may be an option.
- Think of alternative options for what we can use rather than simply replace the old.

Group 4

- Similar comments as other groups.
- Mason high school wireless can kick students off the network.
- Mason middle school testing with computers that have monitors that flicker on and off.

Group 5

- Updates at elementary buildings, including more computer labs.
- Update the phone system, wireless, hardware.
- Ensure there is enough staffing to support the technology for not only school staff but also the student body.
- Learn from other districts.

Develop and Discuss District Configuration Options

The committee reviewed a handout that showed current building configurations, last year enrollment, current year enrollment, State of Michigan Treasury Department capacity per building. Three possible options were completed and the groups were asked to discuss the options and any additional ideas for configurations that they had. Options included on the handout were: 1. No changes to existing buildings and just provide reconfigurations. 2. Move all kindergartners to Harvey Education Center. 3. Move all 5th graders to the middle school.

Prior to group discussions, the committee discussed how many kids are at Harvey Education Center during the day. The most during the school year is approximately 280 and during the summer 120. The group discussed that these numbers would be verified with Lori Hansen. The committee discussed that in order to build a new school, Treasury requires that the building be at or above 85% capacity. Tim Ayres provided the committee members with a handout of possible configuration ideas that he prepared prior to the meeting. Superintendent Ron Drzewicki discussed with the group that we should look to the future for planning. All buildings need improvements and possibly the configuration at Harvey Education Center will help drive decisions at the other school buildings. There are some advantages and disadvantages to having an entire grade moved to the Harvey Education Center. There may be a lot of advantages to moving kindergartners to the Harvey Education Center, though one disadvantage would be any possibly impact to the current Early Learning education programs. Moving the 5th graders to the middle school seemed to be less favorable in the community survey results. The 5th graders would be on the bus with middle school and high school students and may grow up faster because of this. In addition, there may be some specials that the 5th graders are blended with the higher grades in the middle school.

The committee discussed possibly configuration options in small groups.

Group 1

- Did not like moving 5th graders to the middle school.
- Move all kindergartners to Harvey Education Center and leave administration in same building.
- Move all kindergartners to Harvey Education Center and move administration to another location.
- Do not like moving K & 1st grade to Harvey Education Center.
- Do not want to have any plan that will disrupt the Early Education programs at Harvey Education Center.
- Did not like reconfiguring HEC to a K-5 building.
- Felt the community would support utilizing more of the HEC and not having a new building.
- Discussed possibly having administration lease a building, blend administration and the bus garage, moving administration to a new building, middle school or high school.

Group 2

Consolidate upper elementary to the middle school and maybe older grade at middle school moved to the high school.

Have four K-5 buildings as we did in the past but with fixes to the existing 3 elementary buildings.

No new building and make improvements at current buildings.

Group 3

- Kindergarten all in one building not ideal for teaching. Lower elementary grades can learn from the upper elementary grades and this would be lost if kindergartners moved to Harvey Education Center.
- Move 5th graders to middle school with an addition to perhaps have a 5th and 6th grade wing. Try to limit interaction with 7th and 8th graders. Change bus route for 5th and 6th graders to be same schedule as elementary students to avoid younger middle schoolers on the bus with high schoolers.
- Make Harvey Education Center a K-5 building and move administration and Early Learning programs to other buildings.
- Expand all 3 elementary buildings.

Group 4

- Did not like moving 5th graders to the middle school.
- Move all Kindergartners to HEC.
- Move Kindergartners and 1st graders to HEC. Preferred this option because there would be Early Learning – 1st grade all in one building which may help for teacher interaction and student development.

Group 5

- Liked having Kindergartners moved to HEC.
- Discussed various options for moving administration.
- Discussed expanding Early Learning programs and having the district provide a Pre-K type program.

Community Input

The committee discussed creating a sub-committee to look into how to best communicate with the community. The sub-committee will have 5 people, conduct separate meetings, and report back to the entire committee. Possible options for communication were discussed such as, let the community tour the buildings, conducting forums at different buildings, and conducting surveys.

Next Meetings

- Thursday October 13th, 5:00 – 8:00 pm
- Tuesday October 25th, 5:00 – 8:00 pm